

## State Injury Indicators



### Unintentional Fall-Related Fatalities

Category:	Fall-Related Indicators
Demographic Group:	All residents.
Numerator:	Deaths with any of the following ICD-10 codes as an underlying cause of death: W00-W19 (Falls).
Denominator:	Midyear population for the calendar year under surveillance.
Measures of Frequency:	Annual number of deaths. Annual mortality rate—crude and age-adjusted (standardized by the direct method to the year 2000 standard U.S. population).
Period for Case Definition:	Calendar year.
Background:	Unintentional falls are the third leading cause of injury death overall and the leading cause of injury death in people 65 years and older. In 2004, there were 18,807 unintentional fall-related deaths.*
Limitations of Indicator:	Injuries severe enough to result in death represent only a small proportion of the overall burden of injury. An evaluation of only these injuries may not present an accurate picture of the causes of less-severe injuries.
Data Resources:	Death certificate data from vital statistics agencies (numerator) and population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau or suitable alternative (denominator).
Limitations of Data Resources:	The accuracy of indicators based on codes found in vital statistics data is limited by the completeness and quality of coding. The overall completeness of external cause coding on death data is uniformly high. Coding criteria specify that all cases of injury death must contain an injury code in the underlying-cause-of-death field.
Healthy People 2010 Objectives:	15-27: Reduce deaths from falls
CDC's Health Protection Goals:	Healthy People in Every Stage of Life: Crosscutting Healthy People in Healthy Places: Crosscutting

\*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. (2005) [cited 2006 Dec 7]. Available from URL: [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars). [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars)